AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please add or amend the claims to read as follows, and cancel without prejudice or disclaimer claims indicated as cancelled. The following Listing of Claims is intended to replace all prior versions and/or listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (**Currently Amended**) A method of managing a storage, wherein the storage includes a faster access part and a slower access part, the method comprising:

    periodically querying by a prefetcher, using a Digital Image Communications in Medicine (DICOM) communications protocol, ~~protocol to query~~ a DICOM modality worklist for information regarding at least one task scheduled to be performed by at least one modality listed in said DICOM modality worklist;

    querying said DICOM modality worklist by said at least one modality, at a configurable query rate, using said DICOM communications protocol, for information regarding at least one task scheduled to be performed by said at least one modality,

    wherein said configurable query rate is based on at least one parameter selected from the group consisting of: time of day, and workload of said at least one modality;

    determining, based on [[said]] information received by said prefetcher and at least one predetermined rule, at least one type of data likely to be accessed in connection with said at least one task; and

    using said DICOM communications protocol to communicate directly with said storage for prefetching at least some data of said type from the slower access part to the faster access part of said storage.

2. (**Currently Amended**) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~obtaining said information includes:~~ querying by the prefetcher comprises examining a task description of said at least one task, said task description included in said DICOM modality worklist.

3. (**Currently Amended**) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~obtaining said information includes:~~ querying by the prefetcher comprises examining information about said at least one modality, said information about said at least one modality included in said DICOM modality worklist.

4. (**Previously Presented**) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one predetermined rule is tailored to at least one specific information consumer.

5. (**Previously Presented**) The method of claim 1, wherein prefetching includes: transferring data from the slower access part of the storage to the faster access part of the storage.

6. (**Previously Presented**) The method of claim 1, wherein prefetching includes: copying data from the slower access part of the storage to the faster access part of the storage.

7. (**Previously Presented**) The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one type of data comprises reference data, and wherein prefetching includes: ensuring that reference data which is deemed likely to be accessed is available in the faster access part of the storage.

8. (**Previously Presented**) The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one type of data comprises historical data, and wherein prefetching includes: ensuring that historical data which is deemed likely to be accessed is available in the faster access part of the storage.

9. (**Previously Presented**) The method of claim 8, wherein said historical data is about a specific object on which said task is to be performed.

10. (**Previously Presented**) The method of claim 9, wherein said object is a body part of a patient.

11. (**Previously Presented**) The method of claim 1, wherein said modality is an image acquisition machine.

12-34. (**Cancelled**)